

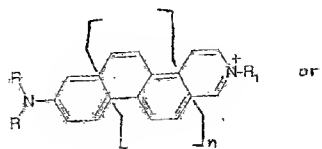
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior version and listings of claims in the application:

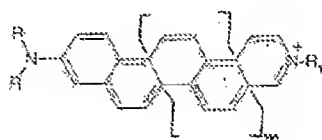
Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented): A method of determining voltage changes by means of a voltage-sensitive dye, characterized in that the voltage-sensitive dye is irradiated with light having a wavelength at which the dye has an absorption $\leq 20\%$ of its absorption maximum and fluorescence caused by irradiation with light is measured.
2. (Original): The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the wavelength of the irradiated light is such that the dye has an absorption of $\leq 12\%$, in particular $\leq 8\%$ and preferably $\leq 2\%$ of its absorption maximum at said wavelength.
3. (Original): The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the wavelength of the irradiated light is in the longer wavelength range, related to the absorption maximum.
4. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, characterized in that an increase or decrease of the fluorescence is measured.
5. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, characterized in that it is used to determine voltage changes in cells.
6. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, characterized in that it is used to determine voltage changes in membranes, especially cell membranes.

7. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 1, characterized in that, as voltage-sensitive dye, a compound of formula (I)



formula (II)



is used, wherein

each R independently is a hydrocarbon residue, which optionally can be substituted with hydroxyl,

R¹ is a monovalent residue,

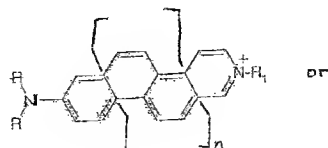
n is an integer from 1 to 9, and

[[n]]m is an integer from 0 to 8,

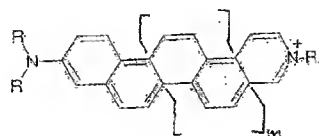
which compounds optionally can have one or more substituents at ring carbon atoms.

8. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, characterized in that ANNINE-4, ANNINE-5, ANNINE-6, ANNINE-7, ANNINE-8 or ANNINE-9 is used as a voltage-sensitive dye.
9. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, characterized in that a change of fluorescence radiation caused by the Stark effect is measured.
10. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, characterized in that a two-photon excitation is effected.

11. (Currently amended): Voltage-sensitive dye having the formula (I)



formula (II)



wherein

each R independently is a hydrocarbon residue, which optionally can be substituted with hydroxyl,

R¹ is a monovalent residue,

n is an integer from 1 to 9, and

[[n]]m is an integer from 0 to 8,

which compounds optionally can have one or more substituents at ring carbon atoms.